

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheets," which include FIGS. 1 and 2, replace the original sheets including FIGS. 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (Pages 1 of 7 and 2 of 7)

REMARKS

Claims 1-170 are now pending in the application. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the personal interview conducted on May 24, 2006. During the interview, Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the relationship between the link switch 420, the SERDES device 430, and the G/MII PHY device 440 shown in FIG. 5 of the Booth reference. No agreement was reached. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Applicant has amended Claim 35 to according to the Examiner's suggestion. Applicant respectfully notes that this is not a narrowing amendment.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12, 20-27, 35-45, 53-64, 73-84, 92-103, 112-123, 131-142, and 151-162 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Booth et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,516,352) in view of Dwork (U.S. Pat. No. 6,717,941). Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Booth in view of Dwork

further in view of Overs et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,600,755). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, Booth, either singly or in combination with Dwork and/or Overs, fails to show, teach, or suggest a first device that communicates with a first media, a second device that communicates with a second media, and a network interface connector (NIC) that communicates with said first device over said first media and with said second device over said second media, wherein said NIC provides autonegotiation between said first and second devices.

It is a longstanding rule that to establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1974), see MPEP §2143.03. Here, the Examiner fails to provide **any** reference to support a finding that a network interface connector that provides autonegotiation between first and second devices is obvious.

Furthermore, when evaluating claims for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, all of the limitations must be considered and given weight. *Ex parte Grasselli*, 231 USPQ 393 (Bd. App. 1983), MPEP § 2144.03. Here, it is clear that the Examiner has given little or no consideration of the limitation **and failed to give the limitation any weight**.

As shown in an exemplary embodiment in FIGS. 3 and 4, a network interface connector (NIC) such as a Gigabit interface connector (GBIC) module 56 communicates with a first device (e.g. a switch 50) via a 1000BASE-X protocol. The GBIC module 56 communicates with a second device 62 via a 1000BASE-T protocol. In other words, the first device communicates over a first media and the second device communicates over a second media. The GBIC module 56 provides autonegotiation between the first

device and the second device (i.e. provides autonegotiation for information exchanged between the first and second devices). For example, “it is not possible for the switch 50 and the device 62 to exchange information about full duplex, half duplex or pause functions. The present invention solves this and other problems.” (Paragraph [0026], Lines 11-13). The GBIC module 56 communicates with both the switch 50 and the device 62 to provide autonegotiation between the devices as described in Paragraphs [0034] and [0035].

As best understood by Applicants, Booth does not disclose a NIC that provides autonegotiation between the first and second devices. The Examiner alleges that FIG. 5 of Booth discloses a first device 430, a second device 440, and a link switch 420 that provides autonegotiation between the first device 430 and the second device 440. Applicant respectfully notes that the first device 430 and the second device 440 do not exchange information. Consequently, the link switch 420 does not provide autonegotiation between the first device 430 and the second device 440.

For example, the first device 430 is a SERDES PHY device that “couples to a local-area network (such as LAN 300A or B) via a fiber-optic transmission medium.” (Column 12, Lines 24-26). The second device 440 is a G/MII PHY device that “couples to LAN 300 via a copper transmission medium.” (Column 12, Lines 26-28). The link switch 420 provides “dynamic switching between physical layer devices 430 and 440.” (Column 12, Lines 19-21). More specifically, the link switch 420 “provides a data path between physical interface unit 412 and PHY devices 430 and 440 according to the state of switch signal 544. In other words, the link switch 420 selectively provides a communication path between the physical interface unit and the device 430 OR the

device 440. The link switch 420 does not provide a communication path between the devices 430 AND 440 and consequently does not provide autonegotiation between the devices 430 AND 440. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, should be allowable for at least the above reasons. The remaining claims, as well as their corresponding dependent claims, should be allowable for at least similar reasons.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 13-19, 29-34, 46-52, 65-72, 85-91, 104-111, 124-130, 143-150 and 163-170 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. Applicant elects to defer amending the claims into independent form until after the above remarks are considered.

CONCLUSION

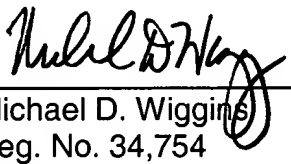
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MDW/mp

By: 
Michael D. Wiggins
Reg. No. 34,754